

DR. SAMUEL B. HAND, UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT PROFESSOR OF HISTORY EMERITUS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about an extraordinary Vermonter, Dr. Samuel B. Hand. Many people argue about what makes you a true Vermonter. Some say it is if you were born there; some say it is if you plan to die there. Until the debate is concluded, the person who could settle the matter is Dr. Hand.

While originally from Long Island, in 1961, Dr. Hand became a professor of European history at the University of Vermont, UVM. As a scholar with a passion for history, Dr. Hand quickly became one who added to Vermont's achievements and glories. He emphasized to his students the importance and the excitement of the history of Vermont, resulting in a number of his former students becoming teachers and archivists in Vermont.

Last month, the University of Vermont's Center for Research on Vermont honored Dr. Hand as the recipient of a lifetime achievement award for his expertise in Vermont history and his generous mentoring skills.

In addition to being the "heart" of the history department, as his colleagues called him, Dr. Hand coauthored a number of books, including "Vermont Voices, A Documentary History of the Green Mountain State" and "A Vermont Encyclopedia", and directed a National Endowment for the Humanities-funded series, "Lake Champlain: Reflections on Our Past." He was also one of the founding members of the University of Vermont's Center for Research on Vermont and served as president of the Vermont Historical Society and as president of the Oral History Society. Today's editorial in the Burlington Free Press praises Dr. Hand for "extend[ing] his base beyond the walls of UVM and reinforced the important collaboration between the state's flagship university and Vermont."

Both the University of Vermont and the State of Vermont are truly fortunate to have benefited from the dedication and intelligence of Dr. Hand. Vermonters like him make me proud to represent such a great State. Mr. President, I would ask that this statement and the Burlington Free Press editorial be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press, June 11, 2003]

#### A VERMONT SCHOLAR

Samuel B. Hand still has a trace of Long Island in his voice, but the retired University of Vermont history professor knows more about Vermont than many of the state's residents.

Hand was recognized for his contributions to the study of his adopted state last month when he received a lifetime achievement award from the University of Vermont's Center for Research on Vermont, of which he was a founding member.

Although he started out teaching European history when he arrived at UVM in 1961, Hand quickly saw the merit of specializing in Vermont history.

His graduate students had a greater opportunity to have their work published than if they had chosen a broader and more heavily researched topic, and many of the students had a personal connection to the state's history.

"I might have a student from California who was a sixth-generation UVMer with a grandfather who was once a state senator," Hand said in an interview. "Vermont history is very personal."

Beyond his mentoring of students—for which he was named UVM graduate faculty teacher of the year in 1994, the year he retired—Hand has been a prolific researcher and writer.

The professor of history emeritus has written many articles about Vermont, and co-authored "Vermont Voices, A Documentary History of the Green Mountain State" in 1998 and "A Vermont Encyclopedia," which will be out in August.

His book, "The Star That Set, The Vermont Republican Party, 1854-1974," was published last year.

Hand, 72, has brought together organizations and university disciplines that share a common interest in Vermont. As a former president of the Vermont Historical Society and last year's recipient of the Founders Circle Award from the Ethan Allen Homestead, Hand has extended his base beyond the walls of UVM and reinforced the important collaboration between the state's flagship university and Vermont.

Along the way, he has influenced students and aspiring historians to see Vermont history—not as dry and distant—but as alive and brimming with dramatic stories and interesting characters, such as Ethan Allen, Samuel de Champlain and former Gov. George Aiken, described by Hand as "the quintessential Vermonter against whom other Vermonters measured themselves."

Hand has played a major role in bringing Vermont stories to life and encouraging people to know their roots and appreciate their home. It is work well worth a lifetime achievement award.

#### AN OKLAHOMA LOSS IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, over the past few months we have seen the fall of Saddam Hussein's brutal regime coupled with the dawning of a new day for the Iraqi people.

With major military combat operations in Iraq over and the security of our homeland bolstered, America and her allies are turning our efforts toward helping the Iraqi people build a free society.

Like many Americans, I was thrilled and heartened by the dramatic images of U.S. troops helping Iraqi citizens tear down statues and paintings of Saddam Hussein. The Iraqi people needed our help, our tanks, our troops, and our commitment to topple Saddam Hussein.

For the first time in their lives, many Iraqis are tasting freedom, and like people everywhere, they think it is wonderful. I am proud of our military and America's commitment to make the people of the Middle East more free and secure.

Our military men and women surely face more difficult days in Iraq, and

the Iraqi people will be tested by the responsibilities that come with freedom. The thugs who propped up the previous regime and outside forces with goals of their own will seek to cause problems, stir up trouble, and initiate violence. Freedom is messy—nowhere more so than in a country that has just shaken off a brutal dictatorship.

But the journey toward a democratic Iraq has now begun. Like so many nations before it, Iraq now endures the growing pains common to a fledgling democracy. The uncertainty in today's Iraq will soon give way to the promise of a better future for the Iraqi people. As we move closer to this goal, we must remember those who sacrificed for this noble cause.

Today, I rise to honor a man who made the ultimate sacrifice one can make for his country and the cause of freedom. Petty Officer 3rd Class Doyle Wayne Bolinger, Jr., 21, of Poteau, died last week in Iraq when an unexploded ordnance accidentally detonated in the area where he was working. Bolinger, who joined the Navy shortly after high school, was assigned to the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 based in Gulfport, MS, whose members are commonly known as Seabees. His unit has been in the Middle East since January providing construction support to our Armed Forces during military operations.

Everybody liked Bolinger. He was known to always have a smile on his face. People in Poteau, who he often helped out with various jobs, will miss him especially.

His family recently issued a statement saying, "Wayne is a very special young man and is proud to be a Navy Seabee. He died defending his country. He is without a doubt one of America's finest."

I could not possibly agree more. This young man represents the very best this Nation has to offer. Petty Officer Bolinger did not die in vain. He died so many others could live in security and freedom. For that sacrifice we are forever indebted. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family today and with the troops who are putting their lives on the line in Iraq.

#### REMEMBERING THE MIAS OF SULTAN YAQUB ON THE 21ST ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR CAPTURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the Israeli soldiers captured by the Syrians during the 1982 Israeli war with Lebanon. It is with great sadness that we mark today 21 long years of anguish for their families, who continue to desperately seek information about their sons.

On June 11, 1982, an Israeli unit battled with a Syrian armored unit in the Bekaa Valley in northeastern Lebanon. Sergeant Zachary Baumel, First Sergeant Zvi Feldman, and Corporal Yehudah Katz were captured by the